

Proposed Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting the presence of HCC in a mammal comprising:
 - a) obtaining a biological sample from the mammal;
 - b) assaying the sample to quantify at least a non-cell-associated HCC related protein; and
 - c) comparing the quantity of the non-cell-associated HCC related protein to a control level, wherein the non-cell-associated HCC related protein comprises phospholipase A2 group XIII (PLA2G13).
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein assaying the sample is selected from the group consisting of using an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and competition assays using monoclonal, polyclonal, or a combination of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assaying the sample includes an activity assay and the non-cell-associated HCC related protein is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme and involved in a quantifiable chemical or biological reaction.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the polyclonal antibodies include those that bind PLA2G13.
- 6-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting HCC in a mammal comprising: a) obtaining a sample of the mammal's liver tissue; and b) assaying for transcription of at least one

of a HCC related protein by at least one of the group consisting of a reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and a nucleic acid hybridization method.

16. (Cancelled)